GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2223
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
POST OFFICE IN PANCHAYAT
Dhumal Prof. Prem Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up branch post office, sub-post office or post office in each panchayat in order to make available the postal services in each panchayat in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which it would be implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of Gram Pnachayats in the country especially in the State of Himachal Pradesh where postal services and facilities are not available; and

(e) the time by when these facilities would be made available?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) No, Sir. Post Offices are opened in rural areas subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms of population, distance and income, and also availability of resources. Most of the villages including the Gram Panchayat villages do not fulfill above norms which are relaxed and subsidized for the entire rural extant especially for hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible ones. The Department provides facilities of delivery of mail, collection of letters form Letter-Boxes and selling of stamps/stationery at the doorstep of customers in villages. For counter facilities, all the villages where Post Offices do not exist are served by the nearest existing Post Office/Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra.

(d)&(e) The number of Gram Panchayats in the country where Post Offices as on 31.3.2007 are not existing is 1,18,380 including 607 Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh. The postal facilities are available in all the villages through the nearest existing Post Offices/ Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras. All these villages/Gram Panchayats are provided daily delivery of dak, collection of mail from Letter-Boxes and sale of stamps at the doorstep.